

REMARKS

Claims 17, 22, and 25 are being amended to obviate the Examiner's indefiniteness rejections, while new claim 29 is being added. The amendments to the claims presented herein do not introduce new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter these amendments.

Additionally, Applicant kindly thanks the Examiner for acknowledging claims 1-16, 18-21, and 28 are allowable, and claims 17, and 22-27 would be allowable if amended or rewritten to overcome the instant rejections. Since Applicant has duly amended claims 17, 22, and 25, Applicant respectfully believes claims 1-29 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of the presently pending claims is earnestly solicited.

1. Rejection of Claims 17 and 22-27 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd

Paragraph

The Office Action states,

Claims 17 and 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 17 provides the limitation to 'the hydrogen content', which lacks proper and sufficient antecedent basis in the claims. (Cf., claim 16, line 1.)

Claims 22 and 25 (and claims dependent thereon) are internally inconsistent in reciting 'said . . . pipes' where precedent is provided only for the singular 'pipe' (i.e. 'at least one pipe'; see claim 22, line 6 and 10 and

claim 25, lines 11-12). It is suggested the term 'pipe(s)' be substituted for 'pipe' as a way of obviating this aspect of the rejection.

RESPONSE

Claims 17, 22, and 25 have been amended to obviate the Examiner's rejections. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the current rejection.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the above remarks, the presently claimed subject matter is believed to be novel and patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all rejections, and allow all pending claims 1-29. Favorable action with an early allowance of the claims pending in this application is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is welcomed to telephone the undersigned practitioner if he has any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

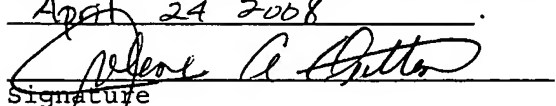
Jarrod N. Raphael
Registration No. 55,566
Customer No. 34872

Date: April 24, 2008
Basell USA Inc.
Delaware Corporate Center II
2 Righter Parkway, Suite 300
Wilmington, Delaware 19803
Telephone No.: 302-683-8176
Fax No.: 302-731-6408

Serial No. 10/530,597

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